

January 30, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Christ Among Us

The long-prayed-for Messiah at last appeared, declared himself to the people, and they responded in disbelief and anger. Of course they wanted the Messiah, but they expected that promised leader to be someone important and impressive. This? This was just the son of Joseph the carpenter. Who was he to call himself the Messiah? He couldn't be the one they had been praying for.

Jesus was not accepted in Nazareth, but he was known and did many wondrous works outside his hometown. If he had performed more of these wonders in Nazareth, would the townsfolk have been more willing to believe that he was who he said he was? Perhaps. But time after time, we see that faith precedes the sign, not the other way around. Jesus provided healing to those who first accepted him and then sought his help. Those who believed received blessings and understanding.

Are there prophets among us whom we wrongly reject? Have we received gifts in answer to prayer, only to say, in essence, "No, God, this isn't what I asked for"? God acts in our lives in many ways, some we can see and understand, others we can't. Jesus comes to us in many unpredictable forms, often through the lives of despised, oppressed, and humble people. Everyone we meet, including people we dislike, can be an important part of God's work in our lives. It is a lot easier to ask God to take away a person who irritates us, or hates us, or makes us uneasy, than to ask why God might have sent that person to us.

The Holy Spirit invites us to open our hearts. As we study and pray, we begin to see God's hand in every aspect of our lives. With these new eyes, we are less likely to overlook the prophets among us.

First St. John Lutheran Church

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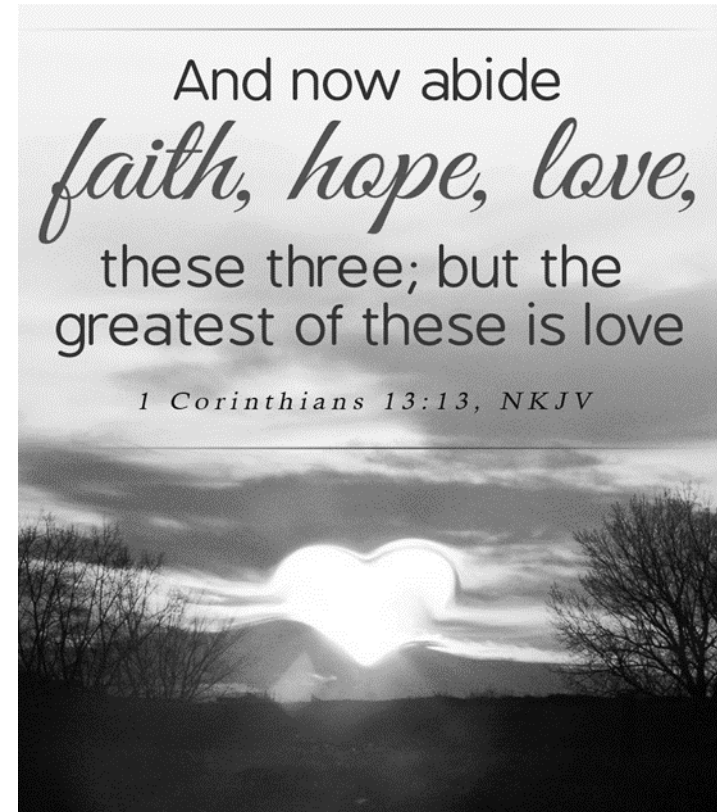
www.firststjohn.com

Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

January 30, 2022 - 10:30 am

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Fourth Sunday Of Epiphany

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	Sunday School / Catechism
10:30 am	Late Worship

Covid Guidelines: If you are fully vaccinated, you do not need to wear a mask. However, if you have not been vaccinated, please continue wearing a mask. We have some available near the entryway if you don't have one.

Livestream and Recorded Worship: We livestream the service on our church website at www.firststjohn.com. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 am in the lounge (middle floor of the educational building – turn right out of the door by the choir loft).

Children ages 3 through 5th grade will meet for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Class: Class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday.

Nursery is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the Narthex (lobby) by the telephone. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office or the Narthex (lobby) and place it in the offering plate.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Please purchase full size items.

dish soap	shampoo, child	toothbrush, child
paper towels	laundry soap	tampons
toilet paper	fabric softener sheets	sanitary pads
tissues	body lotion	band aids
deodorant	body soap	toothpaste, adult
shampoo, adult	toothbrush, adult	toothpaste, child
disposable razors		

This is a list of the items that will provide a month's worth of hygiene supplies to families or individuals in our neighborhood to help them stay clean and healthy. We always welcome any donations from our congregation members. **If you would like to donate items, please donate only full size products as sample sizes will not last a month.** If you would prefer a Pantry volunteer to do the shopping for you, we welcome monetary donations. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

GUEST ORGANIST

Jacob Henry

ELDERS

Ben Hodges, Matt Miller

SOUND BOARD

Mark Ackerman

ACOLYTES

Jordan and Mckenna Cummerow

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude Jacob Henry

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Song “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” No. 414

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Today's reading relates Jeremiah's call and commission as a prophet in the years before the Babylonian exile. His task was to preach God's word in the midst of the difficult political realities of the time. He was to make God known, not just among the Israelites, but also among the nations.

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."⁷But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD."

⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 71:1-6

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked.. (Ps. 71:4)

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

² **In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

³ Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.

the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Offering

Musical Offertory

"Just As I Am"

Sherman

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Intercessory Prayer

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

The Lord's Prayer (*prayed by all*)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn *"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"*
Postlude

No. 789
Jacob Henry

GOSPEL: Luke 4:21-30

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage, however, when he reminds them that prophets often bring God's blessings to those who are regarded as outsiders.

Then [Jesus] began to say to all in the synagogue in Nazareth, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown."²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land;²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff.³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"Here I Am, Lord"

Pastor Rayl

No. 574

(Please stand)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,

**⁴ Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.**

⁵ For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

**⁶ Upon you I have leaned from my birth;
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.
My praise is continually of you.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Some at Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the most important is love, the kind of love that allows us to live and work in cooperation with one another, the kind of love that God showed us particularly in Christ.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.⁶ It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part;¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Alleluia Verse

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Where love can grow
And peace is understood.*

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 4.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.